

C. # 1847

Evidentiary Document No. 5385.

Page 1.

The accused: Fujimura Unit, Army Capt Kato, Kihachiro, gives the following evidence: being duly sworn.

(see form of oath attached)

Q. What unit did you belong to on the 14th Nov 44?

A. I was a member of the KATSU KIKI also known as the KATO Force.

Q. What did that force consist of - the number of Japanese and natives?

A. It was composed of 4 Japanese and about 16 Indonesians.

Q. What were the duties of that force?

A. The guarding of this place OTAKWA. The relations with the natives, seeing that they are controlled.

Q. Do you remember an Australian being captured at OTAKWA about 14 Nov?

A. There was a prisoner captured on the 12th November.

Q. When the prisoner was captured, what was done with him?

A. After his capture he was kept for two or three days and taken to the rear.

Q. Where at?

A. First of all he was taken to INOOGA and from there to KAPAPPOKA.

Q. Was he wounded when he was taken prisoner?

A. No.

Q. After the prisoner had been captured did you send any signals to 5 Div HQ?

A. In a signal sent to this HQ amongst other things mentioned I told them that I had a prisoner.

Q. It was just a normal situation report sent in by you?

A. The fact that I had a prisoner was mentioned last.

Q. When did you send that signal, how soon after the prisoner was captured?

A. About 2 days after the prisoner was captured.

Q. Did you get a reply to that signal?

A. No, there was no reply to that.

Q. Did you send another signal later on relating to the prisoner?

A. A good deal later I sent another enquiry "What will be done with the prisoner?"

Q. Did you get a reply?

A. I got a reply very much later I think early in March 45.

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Q. Did you get a reply?

A. I got a reply very much later I think early in March 45.

Q. What did that signal say?

A. The signal was "GENSHI SHOBUN". "I want it carried out - disposal locally". "You are directed to carry out the disposal SHOBUN locally". "Want SHOBUN carried out locally".

Q. Did you understand that signal to mean that you were to carry out the execution on the spot?

A. As soon as I received the telegram, under the conditions of the war situation at the moment, I understood that I was to kill the prisoners.

Q. Who signed the signal?

A. The Chief of Staff.

Q. What would you have done with the prisoner if you had not received the signal from Div HQ.

A. I was wanting him to be sent back and I would have done so if I had not got the signal.

Q. What were your reactions to the signal?

A. The prisoner and I had lived together and I had begun to understand the feelings of the Australian and I was very sorry it had to be done but seeing it was an order it had to be carried out.

Q. What would have happened to you if you had not carried out the order?

A. As it was an order from a superior I actually did not consider what would happen to me, it had to be carried out and I was very sorry.

Q. How did you treat the prisoner?

A. The prisoner was housed in a portion of the house that I lived in when I was in KAPARAPOKA and I was aware that foreigners ate more meat than Japanese and I used to try to get more meat for him when the opportunity arose.

Q. Did you ever give the prisoner medical supplies?

A. I had given him medicine for malaria and for stomach trouble.

Q. Do you remember the day of the execution?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you say to the prisoner on that day?

A. I told him "On orders received you are to be shot". Having known that the prisoner was a Christian I asked him if he would like 10 minutes to pray.

Q. After the execution how was the prisoner buried?

A. In following the Japanese custom we straightened the body out and put the arms resting on the chest and buried him, and covered the grave right up.

Q. You gave the same burial to the prisoner that you would have given to a normal Japanese soldier?

A. Yes.

Q. If you had not received this order from Div HQ would you have executed the prisoner?

A. I had no authority to kill any prisoner. I would have evacuated him to the rear at the first opportunity.

Q. You were your own boss, there was no one senior to you in your particular area?

A. Yes.

Q. You heard the other witness say you were about 300 kilometres from the nearest HQ?

A. Yes, I heard that.

Q. So if you had kept this prisoner alive for some additional time there wasn't much likelihood of your getting into trouble with 5 Div HQ was there?

A. An order had been received to carry out this execution therefore I carried out without any thought of not receiving any punishment myself if I did not carry it out.

Q. How long was it before WILLIAMS was well. Wasn't he sick for some period.

A. He was down with malaria 2 or 3 times and he had a slight touch of dysentery.

Q. You went to the execution yourself didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. And ordered the firing party to fire?

A. Yes.

Q. Who did you use, natives?
How many?

A. 5.

Q. Did they all have ball ammunition?

A. Yes, I gave them 5 each.

Q. Did you know of anything wrong that this man WILLIAMS had done?

A. No.

Q. But you suggested at one stage that WILLIAMS was a spy hadn't you?

A. I did not say such a thing.

Q. How long have you been a Capt?

A. April 1945.

Q. How long did you have a commission before that?

A. Nov. 40 I became an officer.

Q. Have you ever had any teaching on what is the proper treatment of prisoners of war?

A. I was never taught anything. All my training was in connection with war. At schools we were not likely to be more than Captains we were not instructed.

Q. Have you ever heard of International Law relating to prisoners of war?

A. I didn't know anything about International Law but I had heard that prisoners of war were to be put in a stockade and remove them to higher HQ as soon as possible.

Q. And how are they to be treated?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you think it is a good thing to kill a defenceless man?

A. I think it is a very bad thing. I myself was very upset about it.

THE DEFENDING OFFICER:

Q. What is your civilian occupation?

A. I was on the technical side in a company which made glass cement etc.

Q. You were not a permanent soldier?

A. I had been in the Army since 1939.

Q. But you were not a permanent soldier?

A. I was called up in 1939 and I have been in ever since, I don't know whether I am a permanent soldier or not.

Q. Was the school you went to a Reserve Officers' School and not a school for the Permanent Army?

A. Reserve Officers' School.

THE COURT:

Q. When did you first mention the signal you had received to the previous witness.

A. I first told the Lt. in a letter I wrote.

Q. How long after you received the signal?

A. I think it was 2 or 3 days after I received it.

Q. Why didn't you kill the prisoner within the first few days of receiving that order?

A. It never entered my head to kill him.

Q. Do you agree it would have been wrong to kill the prisoner at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. I didn't consider anything about the killing. I arrived on the night after he had been captured and my thought was to move him to the rear, it didn't enter my head whether it was right or wrong.

Q. Why do you think it is a bad thing to kill a defenceless prisoner of war who has committed no offence?

A. A prisoner of war had no means of defending himself and his weapons have been taken and I had also heard that a prisoner of war should not be executed. Therefore I knew it was wrong.

R. P. 83(B) complied with.

THE DEFENDING OFFICER: That is all the evidence I have.

I certify that this sheet and the four preceding sheets bearing my signature contain a true copy of the official record of evidence of Captain KATO KIHACHIRO contained in the proceedings of Military Court held at Morotai on 14th January, 1946, relating to the trial of the said Captain KATO, KIHACHIRO on the charge of murdering a prisoner of war at KAPALAPOKA, Dutch New Guinea, between 10 March 45 and 20 March 45.

/s/ T. Mornane Lt. Col.

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/s/ T. Mornane Lt. Col.

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問、部隊任務、何であるか。

卷十頁十二目三摘 仁孝傳 卷九十一 仁孝

問：停廢補金後，二十多萬元，通信工程五師團司令部，送金多少。

問、コノ行處ニ就イテハ貴ニクハ其ノ悛ニ王何カ、通信ヲ數ムルモノ、

答、大分怪^ニテカ^ニ、私^ハモウ一度「コノ傳傳^ニ」ヲドウスルカ」と云フ。曾又問「ヲ發^ス」

問. 回答は、 $n=2, 3, 4$

癸亥夏曆壬午九月初六日與三友回答三接書

問、ノ通信ニ何ノ喜ムニヤリシカ。

[illegible]

問、^二テタハシ^一通信ヲ貴ニシガ現地ニテ各刑ヲ行フベキモテテト解シタルカ。

答。受^レ取^ルト同時ニ私ハ當時、戦局カラ見テ停戦ニ達^スヲ殺スベキヲバト^シ得^タリ。

問 其、通信三言が要否の如何。

答：參集長子。

問 王夏刑目記億三十二万。

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答 分

問 貴方、丁多ハ、俘虜ニ何ト云ヒタシタカ

答 私人假ニ「賞金」ヲ命令ニ依リ貴方ハ射殺サレタト云ヒタシタ

私ハ、俘虜ガ甚ダ宿敵ヲアテト知ラセタデ十分間、祈禱ヲシタイト
事ナシタシタ

問 処刑後、俘虜ハ如何ニ葬ラレタシタカ

答 日本ノ習慣ニ従ヒ、我々ハ死体ヲ真直ニ、兩腕ヲ胸ニ載セテ埋メ墓ニシテ
盛リタシタ

× × × × ×

問 貴方自身処刑場所（行ツタセテ）

答 バイ作キタシタ

問 丁多ハ、銃殺執行隊ニ射撃ヲ命ジタデナカ

答 サウシタ

× × × × ×

余ハ余ノ署名ヲ有ス、本紙並ニ前四葉ハ、一九四五年三月十日ヨリ一九四
五年三月二十日ニテ三箇領「ニ」ギ「カ」ボ「カ」ニ於テ俘虜一如何殺害
シタ廉ニ依リ陸軍大尉 加藤喜八郎、密理ニ関シ、一九四六年一月十四日モ
タニ「開廷」サシタ軍事裁判、裁判記録中ニ合シタ陸軍大尉、加藤
喜八郎、証言、公武記録、真正ナル字本ヲ完全ノモノトテ証ス

陸軍中佐 丁・モ・ボ・ト / 署名

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答 分

問 日、エタハ、の、俘虜ニ何ト云ヒタリカ

答 私ハ彼ニ「賞領」シ命令ニ依リ貴方ハ射殺サレタムト云ヒタリタ

私ハ「俘虜」ガ基督教徒ニアラ知ラナクテ十分間祈禱ヲモクイカト
尋ネテシムタ

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答 イ、行キタリタ

問 是ニ銃殺執行隊ニ射撃ヲ命ジタリタリカ

答 サウシス

× × × × ×

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喜八郎、証言、公武記録、真正ナル字本ヲ含メ、付テ可証ス

陸軍中佐 T. モーネー / 署名